

What is claimed is:

1. A preformed horizontally elongated block for use in a retaining wall, the preformed horizontally elongated block comprising:
  - a front, a rear, first and second sides, a top and a bottom;
  - the front of the block comprising a viewable surface and a back surface;
  - a projection extending outwardly from the block top or bottom; and
  - the block defining a recess at the opposite block top or bottom from the location of the projection, the recess extending transversely and continuously across the block, the recess comprising a stop surface that is coplanar with the back surface of the front, wherein the recess of the horizontally elongated block permits the projection of a second block to engage the back surface of the front of the horizontally elongated block.
  
2. A preformed horizontally elongated block for use in a retaining wall, the preformed horizontally elongated block comprising:
  - a front member comprising a viewable surface, a rear surface, opposing sides, opposing top and bottom surfaces, wherein the front member has a lateral extent;
  - a rear member comprising an interior surface, an exterior surface, opposing sides, and opposing top and bottom surfaces, wherein the rear member has a lateral extent and wherein the lateral extent of the front member is greater than the lateral extent of the rear member;

a web connecting the front member to the rear member, the web having opposing sides, opposing top and bottom surfaces; and

a projection extending outwardly from at least a portion of the top or bottom surfaces of at least one of the front member, the rear member, and the web;

the web defining a recess on the opposite block top or bottom that the projection is located, the recess extending transversely and continuously across the web, the recess comprising a stop surface that is coplanar with the back surface of the front member, wherein the recess of the horizontally elongated block permits the projection of a second block to engage the back surface of the front member of the horizontally elongated block.

3. The block of claim 1, wherein the projection comprises an indexing surface and the recess comprises a stop surface, with the indexing and stop surfaces of the blocks in vertical alignment with each other, and with the indexing and stop surfaces serving to position the block in one course in a predetermined relation with another block in an adjacent course as the indexing and stop surfaces of adjacent courses of blocks are brought into registry with each other.
4. The block of claim 1, wherein the indexing and stop surfaces of the horizontal block is offset from another block by a first predetermined distance with respect to the viewable surface of each block.

5. The block of claim 1, wherein the indexing and stop surfaces of the horizontal block is offset from another block by one of a plurality of predetermined distances with respect to the viewable surface of each block.
6. The block of claim 1, wherein the projection comprises an indexing surface and the recess comprises a stop surface, with the indexing and stop surfaces of an adjacent course of blocks serving to position the viewable surface of a block in one course of blocks in a predetermined relation with a block in an adjacent course as the indexing and stop surfaces of adjacent course of blocks are brought into registry with each other.
7. The block of claim 6, wherein the predetermined relation is coplanar.
8. The block of claim 6, wherein the predetermined relation is offset by a first predetermined distance.
9. The block of claim 6, wherein the predetermined relation is one of a plurality of predetermined distances.
10. A retaining wall comprising:  
a plurality of horizontal, preformed blocks, with each horizontal, preformed block comprising a front, a rear, opposing sides, a top and a bottom, the front comprising a viewable surface and a back surface, with the plurality of horizontal, preformed blocks stacked one above the other;

wherein each of the horizontal preformed blocks comprises:

a projection extending outwardly from the block top or bottom,

each of the horizontal preformed blocks define a recess on the opposite

block top or bottom where the projection is located, the recess

extends transversely across the block, the recess comprises a stop

surface that is coplanar with the rear surface of the front;

with the projection and the recess extending vertically in the same

direction relative to the block, and with the projection of each the

horizontal preformed blocks arranged and configured to engage the

recess of the block in an adjacent course of blocks; and

wherein the recess of the block permits the projection of a second block to

engage the back surface of the front of the block, and thereby

position the adjacent courses of blocks together in a predetermined

relation.

11. The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein:

the plurality of horizontal, preformed blocks are stacked one above the other in a

columnar fashion with one block in one course positioned directly over

another block in an underlying course.

12. The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein:  
the plurality of horizontal, preformed blocks are stacked one above the other in a  
running bond fashion with each block in one course overlapping the joint  
between a pair of blocks in an underlying course.

13. The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein the projection comprises an indexing  
surface and the recess comprises a stop surface; with the indexing and stop surfaces of  
each block in vertical alignment with each other, and with the indexing and stop  
surfaces serving to position blocks in one course in a predetermined relation with blocks  
in an adjacent course as the indexing and stop surfaces of adjacent courses of blocks  
are brought into registry with each other.

14. The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein the indexing and stop surfaces of each  
the horizontal blocks are offset from each other by a first predetermined distance with  
respect to the viewable surface of each block.

15. The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein the indexing and stop surfaces of each  
the horizontal blocks are offset from each other by one of a plurality of predetermined  
distances with respect to the viewable surface of each block.

16. The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein each the projection comprises an indexing  
surface and each the recess comprises a stop surface, with the indexing and stop  
surfaces of adjacent courses of blocks serving to position the viewable surfaces of

blocks in one course in a predetermined relation with blocks in an adjacent course as the indexing and stop surfaces of adjacent course of blocks are brought into registry with each other.

17. The retaining wall of claim 16, wherein the predetermined relation is coplanar.

18. The retaining wall of claim 16, wherein the predetermined relation is offset by a first predetermined distance.

19. The retaining wall of claim 16, wherein the predetermined relation is one of a plurality of predetermined distances.

20. The retaining wall of claim 16, wherein the plurality of horizontal preformed blocks have different thicknesses.

21. The retaining wall of claim 16, wherein the plurality of horizontal preformed blocks have the same longitudinal extent.

22. The block of claim 1, wherein the viewable surface of the front member comprises a plurality of facets.

23. A retaining wall comprising:

a plurality of horizontal, preformed blocks, with each horizontal, preformed block comprising a front member with a viewable surface, a rear member, opposing sides, a top, and a bottom, with the plurality of horizontal, preformed blocks stacked one above the other,

wherein each of the horizontal preformed blocks comprises a projection and a recess, with the projection and the recess extending vertically in the same direction relative to the block, and with the projection of each the horizontal preformed blocks arranged and configured to engage a recess of a block in an adjacent course of blocks and thereby position the adjacent courses of blocks together in a predetermined relation.

24. The retaining wall of claim 23, wherein the bottom of each the horizontal preformed block comprises a bottom support surface and the projection of each the horizontal preformed block extends downwardly relative to its bottom support surface; and,

wherein the top of each the horizontal preformed block comprises a top support surface and the recess of each the horizontal preformed block extends downwardly relative to its top support surface.

25. The retaining wall of claim 23, wherein each the projection comprises an indexing surface and each the recess comprises a stop surface; with the indexing and stop surfaces of each block in vertical alignment with each other, and with the indexing and

stop surfaces serving to position blocks in one course in a predetermined relation with blocks in an adjacent course as the indexing and stop surfaces of adjacent courses of blocks are brought into registry with each other.

26. The retaining wall of claim 25, wherein the indexing and stop surfaces of each the horizontal blocks are offset from each other by a first predetermined distance with respect to the viewable surface of each block.

27. The retaining wall of claim 25, wherein the indexing and stop surfaces of each the horizontal blocks are offset from each other by one of a plurality of predetermined distances with respect to the viewable surface of each block.

28. The retaining wall of claim 23, wherein each the projection comprises an indexing surface and each the recess comprises a stop surface, with the indexing and stop surfaces of adjacent courses of blocks serving to position the viewable surfaces of blocks in one course in a predetermined relation with blocks in an adjacent course as the indexing and stop surfaces of adjacent course of blocks are brought into registry with each other.

29. The retaining wall of claim 28, wherein the predetermined relation is coplanar.

30. The retaining wall of claim 28, wherein the predetermined relation is offset by a first predetermined distance.

31. The retaining wall of claim 28, wherein the predetermined relation is one of a plurality of predetermined distances.
32. The retaining wall of claim 28, wherein the plurality of horizontal preformed blocks have different thicknesses.
33. The retaining wall of claim 23, wherein:  
the plurality of horizontal, preformed blocks are stacked one above the other in a columnar fashion with one block in one course positioned directly over another block in an underlying course.
34. The retaining wall of claim 23, wherein:  
the plurality of horizontal, preformed blocks are stacked one above the other in a running bond fashion with each block in one course overlapping the joint between a pair of blocks in an underlying course.